

Isabel's House, the Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks



A crisis nursery is a residential/respice child care facility which protects children by providing a safe environment at a time when the chances of abuse and neglect in the home are increased.



A crisis nursery also provides support to the caregivers, through education, parenting skills workshops and referrals to other community agencies.



Isabel's House, the Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks, is the signature project of the Junior League of Springfield. Our partners include Burrell Behavior Health, City of Springfield, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, CoxHealth, Missouri State University, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, St. John's Health System and United Way.



Child abuse and neglect rates in Greene County far exceed both the state and national averages.



Local experts see the need for a crisis nursery in Springfield as there is no temporary 24-hour care for children ages birth-12 who are in crisis situations.



Our Crisis Nursery will serve 20 children/night and the average length of stay will be 72 hours. We plan to help over 2,000 children annually!



There are many reasons for parents to experience extreme stress that may result in dangerous situations for their children. Some potential clients to benefit from our program are:

Parents about to physically harm their children

Family who has just lost their home- needs time to find a new one

Parent who is going through drug or alcohol rehabilitation

Children whose parents have been in an accident and are admitted to the hospital

Single parent who had lost utilities and has no hot water or heat

Single parent who requires emergency surgery with no one to care for the child

Children who are not currently in the foster care system.....



Too often these children, who are victims of a stressful environment, are left with an inappropriate caregiver. Isabel's House, the Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks, will be known in our area as the appropriate caregiver during their temporary crisis.



We anticipate providing crisis care services to primarily low-income families in Springfield and the surrounding area; families with limited infrastructure resources for coping with a crisis.



The location we have chosen is within the city defined area of need near a city bus route. We do not plan to turn away anyone based on income guidelines or place of residence.



We plan to market our services to our collaborating agencies who already serve many of these families on a daily basis. Through this collaboration, we will provide the resources to prevent child abuse and neglect.



We will also develop a public relations campaign that will inform the general public of our existence and purpose of providing a safe place for children to stay, while caregivers and families are directed to services to help them deal with a crisis situation.

